Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon the Most Important Topics of the Hour.

COMPULED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Struggle in Connecticut-The Lesson of the Day. From the Times. Whatever be the result of the contest in Connecticut, the provoking speciacle witnessed there will not be without its use, if it lead the

Union party to study the consequences which the action of the radicals in Congress must inevitably produce. A State which, throughout the war, has on every occasion stood by Union candidates and contributed its full share to the triumphs of the Union party, is to-day in jeopardy. And it is so because the radicals have insisted upon fighting out the fight on the line of their choosing, and because the candi date whom they have made their standardbearer does his utmost to disgust and alienate conservative men by introducing into the canrass the views and tactics of the radicals at Washington.

The mistake which the assailants of the President commit, lies primarily in a misconception of the temper and aims of the American people. Themselves elected amid the excitement incident to the Rebellion, they forget that peace has moderated public feeling, and turned the current of popular thought into other directions than those of martial victory. While the national existence was at stake but one thought and one resolve controlled everything. All considerations were made subordinate to the preservation of the Union. Radicals and conservatives were alike earnest in their endeavors to secure that end. Being at length secured, the question next became, "How most speedily and effectually to the beneats of the struggle, not by conquest, not by subjugation, not by vengeance, but by obliterating traces of hostility, and bringing orth and South into relations more cordial than those that preceded the war ?"

At this point the blunder of the radicals begins. They imagine that they were elected as apostles of negro suffrage, and even, in some respects, of negro supremacy, when for the most part they were elected simply as Union men, without any reference to the disorganizing theories now pushed with unseemly persistency. They forget that the war was for the Union, not for the negro; that it was a patriotic struggle, not an abolition struggle, and that the abolition of slavery was an incident of the war, produced by its necessities, instead of its distinct and understood purpose. They overlook the fact that neither before the war, during the war, nor now the war is over, would it be possible for any considerable number of radicals to be elected on the issues they have raised in Congress. They fail to remember that notwithstanding their democratic institutions, the people of the United States are essentially a conservative people; that the Republican party owes its successes to its conservatism; that the majority of the Republican members of Congress were elected on conservative platforms; and that every attempt to force upon the party extreme measures will assuredly lessen its usefulness, and weaken its hold upon the respect and confidence of the country.

Simply as a question of humanity and justice to the negro, we hold that the course of the radicals is impolitic. Despite the pleasure and exultation with which the great fact of emancipation is regarded, there is an unmistakable aversion to the projects of the negro-phobists, so far as they imply special favoritism. As to the civil status of the negro, we believe that throughout the North but one opinion prevails.

It is, that before the law, black and white shall stand on an equality. It is, that whatever is necessary shall be done to insure to the black man every right that belongs to the white man, In respect of labor, property, and all that per-tains to the civil aspect of citizenship. For more than these things, even the North is not prepared. And to endeavor by legislation to upon either section is to keep alive and intensity the feeling—call it prejudice if you will—which too generally prevails against color. Allow the natural results of emancipation to develop themselves, and all in due time will be well. Allow the freedman to demonstrate his capacity as a self-sustaining aborer, and his fitness for the civil privileges of the citizen, and the prejudice against his race will gradually disappear. The franchise may then be granted with comparatively little oppo-sition. Meanwhile, however, the lot of the freedman is made worse, and the prejudice against him infinitely increased, by such measures as the Freedmen's Bureau bill and the Civil Rights bill—one organizing a vast system of pauperism, the other conferring upon the black man a degree of consideration never thought of for the white man; both measures violating principles and provisions of the Constitution, and undermining the ground on which our national liberties have hitherto rested.

From another point of view, the radical policy is fatal to the permanent strength and influence of the Republican party. The exclusion in an unconstitutional manner of the Southern Senators and Representatives will operate disastrously upon Southern opinion. It is a policy of alienation, of aggravation, of insult and of wrong, and as such will bring forth bitter fruit in days not distant. For, after all, the admission of the South to Congress is merely a question of time. The exclusion may extend over one year, over two years, or more, but sooner or later it must terminate. As a prominent citizen of Massachusetts is reported to have said, you must either exterminate the Southern people or restore to them their political rights. There is no alternative, save the overthrow of the name and forms of the republic. Ignoring the idea of extermination, then, the restoration of the South to Congress is a necessity, against which radical theorists will in vain contend. The very measures with which they hope to obtain supremacy will hasten their discomfiture. And depend upon it, when over the South shall re-enter the Capitol, it will be as a unit against the party which shall be unjust enough, and insane enough, to make the question of negro suffrage paramount over all other things.

If the Union party in the Northern States would avert defeat and the disasters which de-

feat involves, it must discard radical counsels and demand of its candidates a faithful adherence to the letter and spirit of the platform on which, as a party, it has thus far stood. As be-tween the position of the President and the po-sition of the radicals in Congress, there is little hesitation on the part of the country. The choice is between a patriotic adherence to the Constitution and a reckless indifference to Constatutional restraints, and the preference of people will not long remain in doubt. Shall the "rule or ruin" policy of the ultraists in Congress be permitted to divide and destroy the great party by whose favor they hold their seats.

# Banks and Taxes,

From the Tribune. It has been conclusively settled, by a decision of the Supreme "Court, that the shares of any and every stockholder in any national bank are subject to State and local taxation unaffected by the fact that part or all the capital of said bank is invested in national obligations. Those obligations are not locally taxable such, but their use as bank capital is. In this decision the Supreme Court has affirmed, we believe, a decision of the Court of Appeals of our

We reiterate our record of this important decision for the guidance of assessors and tax-payers. Hitherte, if we mistake not, owners of shares of national banks have felt justified in omitting from their return of property subject to taxation so much of their capital invested in national banks. Thus, if a bank, having a capital of \$300,000, had \$200,000 invested in those securities, each stockholder felt warranted in returning to the assessors but one-third of the amount of his stock. This is justifiable no

longer. He must return and pay taxes on every dollar of his stock, such being the authorita ave exposition of the law of the land.

Connecticut.

From the Tribune. The sham Democracy carried Connecticut for the last time in 1853. Since then, they have sanguinely hoped to carry it-believed themrelves just on the point of carrying it-several times; but their fond tilusions have been rathlessly dispelled by the returns. Here is the record:--

Fears. Whig. Abolisian Democratic. 1802 Gov. Remirch. 29 241 Gillette., 1963 Seyris aur. 31, 224 Prest. Scott. ... 20, 359 Hate ... 3, 169 Pierce ... 33, 219 1851. Gov. Dutten. ... 20, 871 Gillette. 8925 Seymour 39, 814 1854 Gov Dutton\*, .19.485 Chapman 10 672 Ingham28,538

-It will be seen that, in the fifteen State or Presidential elections held since 1853, the leaders of the sham Democracy have been, in at east five contests, as sanguine of a triumph as they now are, and have stimulated their follow-ers to do their very worst in the confident assu-rance of success. They did not tolerate a doubt of such a result in the spring of '63, and were almost equally confident in the autumn of '64; yet they were beaten by 2637 majority in the for-mer, and 2406 in the latter. In either instance, they counted largely on the votes of "conserva-tive Republicans," which they did not find in the ballot boxes—or rather, which they found there counting against them. Yet they are now counting their unhatched chickens once more, as conidentiy as though they had never felt the pangs

of disappointment.

But we would not have the Republican Unionists believe that they are to be easily beaten. The State is close, and they have naturalized not less than 3000 voters for this express occasion. Of the young Americans who this year attain their majority, at least three-fourths will vote for Hawley; but the newly naturalized vote is even more decidedly against him. We entreat, then, every citizen of Connecticut, every Republican, who is now absent from his State, to go home at once and help organize to call out the vote next Monday; we exhort every citizen of Connecticut who does business to this city to go home on Friday night with his business so arranged that he need not return to it till Tues day; and we implore every Republican now in the State to remain there till the polls close, and do his very utmost for the holy cause of Nationality, Justice, and the Richts of Man.

#### General Lee's Testimony Before the Reconstruction Committee:

We published yesterday the testimony of the late Rebel General Lee before the Reconstruction Committee of Congress. We have also been supplied with the evidence, complete from the record, but for which we have no room at present, of John B. Baldwin and John F. Lewis, members of the Virginia Secession Convention, and of the famous John Minor Botts testimony, which in the main is only interesting to the

It is principally devoted to a question of verabetween Baldwin on the one side, and Lewis and Botts on the other, as to whether President Lincoln did or did not submit to Mr. Baldwin, as a messenger from the said Secession Convention, sent for by the President, a proposition that if said Convention, without dipping into secession, would adjourn sine die, he would take the responsibility of evacuating Fort Sumter. Balawin says he received no such proposition. Lewis and Botts say that from his own statements at the time Balawin did receive it, and that Botts took him to task for not submitting it to the Convention, as a matte the utmost importance. But whether Baldwin or Botts is right is a matter now of no sort of importance in reference to the business before Congress. All such stuff from the Reconstruction Committee involves a waste of time, money, paper, and printer's ink. The Rebellion is done for, and the business before the committee is the restoration of the late Rebel States. Upon this question Mesers, Botts and Lewis - persecuted Virinia Unionists during the war-are naturally bitter against the secessionists, and do not like President Johnson's generous Southern policy. But they see things through a distorted medium and their evidence, accordingly, is warped and

We gave in full the testimony of General Lee, because, as the evidence of the great military leader of the Rebellion, everybody was in terested in reading it, especially in regard to the prescut state of public opinion in Virginia on the practical, living issues of the day. We presume, too, that General Lee is as well qualihed, from his personal observations and knowledge of public sentiment in Virginia, as any other man in the State, to represent that people before the Reconstruction Committee In this view his statements as to what the Virginians are prepared and what they are not prepared to do in the way of reconstruction are upon the whole as much as could be expected. If they are not in raptures over their subjugation as Rebels, they are at least disposed to submit to the new order of things and the President's policy in good faith; and in the midst of the rulns of the Rebellion they are too much absorbed in the struggle for existence to be concerned in the plots of political dema-gogues. This is an important fact, and, as with their best efforts to recover from their broken fortunes, it will require from the Southern people years of steady labor to repair the damages o the war, there need be no fears of mischief from them with their restoration to Congress.

Mr. Covode.

From the Daily News. Mr. Covode, in his report upon the condition of affairs in the Southwest, stated that he had observed in Louisiana a willingness, on the part of the Rebels, to take any terms from the hands of the conquerors, until Governor Wells came back from his interview with the President, and reported that he had found him a friend of the South. Thereupon, it seems, the Rebels immediately fell from grace, and the Tribune wonders how long it will take to reconstruct the country in this style. Ordinarily people are more easily conciliated by kindness than by harshness; it is the genial influence of the sun, and not the herce attack of the cutting blast, or the arrowy sleet, that causes the defen-sive cloak to be discarded.

But the *Tribune* thinks otherwise, and affects

to believe that, it the President had declared himself the determined enemy of the South, he would have had more influence there, and would more readily have restored confidence and reestablished harmony. Strange reasoning this, if the *Tribune* is really in earnest. Unless, indeed, the *Tribune* believe that the Southern people have attained to that degree of Christian perfection that they will be glad of the opportunity of showing how they can love those who hate them, bless those who persecute, and pray for those who despitefully use them,

It would be well for the Tribune, and all those who seek to make a Poland of the South, to remember that Poland has never been anything but a thorn in the flesh of the Government that destroyed her national existence.

Senator Morrill's Perfidy in Breaking his Pair.

As Mr. Fessenden and Mr. Morrill both contend that a pair may be annulled at the choice of a party to it without the consent of the other

party, and as the Tribune says that to charge bad faith under such circumstances is as spiteful as it is absurd, let us look at the facts and see how a little of the ordinary decency of men, not

swindlers by profession, would regard it.
Morrill agrees to pair with Wright upon the Stockton case. He writes to Mr. Wright, or causes him to be written to, that he will vote. These messages are sent Wednesday. Mr. Wright is confined to his room and cannot come

Let us see how this works, for if we have done Mr. Morrill injustice, we are most anxious to disavow any expression. A pairs with B and comes to New York upon some most important business. It is to be closed on Friday. On Wednesday B writes to him to recall the pair. Or, A starts off, having paired; he breaks his leg and cannot travel. Does a notice absolve the

Mr. Morrill very properly did not vote at first. His sense of propriety fold him not to. He did so upon the egging of Mr. Sumner, for a very great party purpose. If the point was clear, why any hesitation on his part? Philip, sober, would not vote; Philip, not sober, did. Now, let us examine the Stockton vote. Five Senators hold, we will say, their seats upon the same point. If one of them from one State votes another of them from another State in, does he not judge his own case just as much as Scuator Stockton? Of course. Then the whole distinc-tion is a quibble. A Senator, duly admitted and sworn, has a right to vote on every subject before the Senate, unless we propose to inject a reservation into the Constitution. If that can be done whenever party reasons suggest, let us know it, and we can apply the rule hereafter.

That motive of delicacy which would restrain any man from deciding anything in his own favor, would naturally restrain his vote; but if his opponents discard delicacy, is he held to it?

The United States Naval Station in the West Indies.

St. Thomas, the new naval station of the United States Navy in the West Indies, is one of the Virgin group of islands, belonging to Den-mark. It is thirty-eight miles east of Porto Rico, in latitude (east of Fort Christian) eigh-teen degrees, twenty minutes, and twenty-four seconds north; longitude, sixty-four degrees, fitty five minutes, and forty-five seconds west. Its greatest length from west to east is seventeen miles, and is about four and a half miles in breadth, and has a total area of forty-five square miles. It has a rugged and elevated surface, which attains its greatest height towards the centre, and descends gradually, but oftener ab-

ruptly, to the shore.

It was once well wooded, but the cutting down of the trees has laid it open to the full force of the sun's rays, and it now suffers much from deficiency of water. The soil being sandy, and by no means tertile, the fur greater part of it remains uncultivated. The area under crop is only about twenty-five hundred acres, of which nearly one-half is planted with sugar-cane. The whole island enjoys the privileges of a free harbor, and the trade is very extensive, St. Thomas being a depot of goods for many of the neighboring islands. It has its central lo-cality, Charlotte Amalie, which is annually visited by about three thousand vessels from Europe, North and South America, and also from the other West India islands. In Europe the trade is chiefly with London, Liverpool, Giasgow, Havre, Bordeaux, Marseilles, Genoa, Altona, Hamourg, Bremen, and Amsterdam. St. l'homas is the principal station of the British West India mail steamers from Southampton. for which place a large steam packet leaves every The population of St. Thomas is estimated at thirteen thousand.

-The death of a German veteran who served under the great Frederick in the seven years war, is announced. He died at the respectable age of one hundred and twenty, at the hamlet of Slaude, in Upper Silesia. His name was Laurence Halacz.

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WILLIAM B. MANN.
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